

Today's News - Monday, October 5, 2015

- Happy World Architecture Day!
- Kamin weighs in on the Chicago Architecture Biennial: "a sprawling, captivating mixed bag" that is "by turns, surprisingly streetwise, maddeningly megalomaniacal, deeply humanistic, playfully forward-looking and head-scratchingly intellectual."
- Wainwright finds the Biennial to be "a diverse pick'n'mix of architecture today - an intriguing hotchpotch of the strange and wonderful," but ponders "why won't it engage with the city in a more meaningful way?"
- Q&A with the Chicago Biennial's co-curators Herda and Grima re: their focus "on innovation, idea-generation, and global dialogue."
- Finch tackles ethics and politics: "It is regimes that would not allow international architects to work within their borders that you really need to worry about - design is not trying to represent a fixed attitude to politics, but how culture can take its place and hold its own - a still small voice of calm, in a troubled world."
- Waite and Fulcher on ethics and architecture: Hadid's BBC Radio 4's interview "has prompted a discussion of architects' moral responsibility," and "kick-started a media-wide debate about the morals of architecture and the idea that buildings are designed in an 'ethical void.'"
- Architects for Social Housing target the Stirling Prize for shortlisting RSH+P's luxury Neo Bankside flats, and are "looking for an architect to design a temporary pavilion" for their planned protest at Mipim London.
- Nouvel gets the green light for Tours Duo, two "leaning towers" on Paris's Left Bank (sure to inspire much grumbling).
- Collective Architecture tapped to take over the transformation of Edinburgh's iconic, but currently derelict, Calton Hill: "Malcolm Fraser Architects did some brilliant design work and we're taking those plans forward."
- A Hadid kind of day: her Moscow debut is "a stunning avant-garde office complex" that many hope will attract archi-tourists, but "the issue of public access for those who want to enjoy the interior appears to be unresolved."
- Hohenadel shows off eye-fuls of Hadid's "dizzying piece of architectural eye candy" in Moscow with a "photogenic black-and-white central atrium"; it is "easy to imagine the interior as the set of a futuristic office dramedy."
- Eye-fuls of Dame Zaha's "curvaceous" luxury tower joining "the throng of bombastic buildings" along the High Line: "Schumacher anticipates there will be 'super-cool people' in the building. Super-wealthy may be more accurate" (only \$50 million for the penthouse?).
- Woodman says "it's time to find a retirement home for some of London's less-loved memorials. It is not just the quantity, but their scale and their frequently bombastic or sentimental expression."
- A good reason to head to the City of Brotherly Love this week: DesignPhiladelphia's "most ambitious project ever," with architects transforming a forgotten, dumpster-lined alley into the Pearl Street Passage.
- The winner and other teams of VAI/USNPS "National Parks Now" competition launch pilot projects.
- Back in Chicago, three winners take home 2015 Burnham Prize with their single images that explore the question: What is the State of the Art of Architecture today?
- Rural Urban Framework takes home the 2015 Curry Stone Design Prize for its efforts to address depopulating villages and "China's unprecedented rural-to-urban migration."

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[World Architecture Day 2015: Architecture, Building, Climate, October 5: Commitments and solutions...to promote actions and solutions that apply the enormous power of architecture and urban design in coping with global climate change...](#) - International Union of Architects (UIA)

[Chicago Architecture Biennial a sprawling, captivating mixed bag: ...by turns, surprisingly streetwise, maddeningly megalomaniacal, deeply humanistic, playfully forward-looking and head-scratchingly intellectual...at its meaty best when it takes on fraught issues...marks an often-exhilarating but imperfect beginning for Chicago...](#) By Blair Kamin -- Sarah Herda; Joseph Grima; RAAAF; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; Lacaton & Vassal; Tatiana Bilbao; Atelier Bow-Wow - Chicago Tribune

[Chicago Architecture Biennial secures the city's place as a mecca for building buffs: With the police stations of tomorrow and \\$9,000 extendable homes...a diverse pick'n'mix of architecture today: ...the power of this new architecture biennial might be found less in aping...Instagram-friendly gallery installations of Venice, and more in a direct engagement with the real problems facing the city of Chicago.](#) By Oliver Wainwright -- Sarah Herda/Graham Foundation; Joseph Grima; Tatiana Bilbao; Lacaton & Vassal; Jo Noero/Noero Architects; Gramazio Kohler Architects; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; Theaster Gates; David Adjaye; James Wines: SITE Specific; Frank Lloyd Wright [images] - Guardian (UK)

[Newsmaker: Sarah Herda and Joseph Grima: The co-curators of the inaugural Chicago Architectural Biennial focused on innovation, idea-generation, and global dialogue while planning The State of the Art of Architecture.](#) - Architectural Record

[Regime values are less important than a building's use: Architecture may be political, but it is fundamentally about creative ideas: It is regimes that would not allow international architects to work within their borders that you really need to worry about...design is not trying to represent a fixed attitude to politics, but how culture can take its place and hold its own - a still small voice of calm, in a troubled world.](#) By Paul Finch - The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Ethics and architecture: Where do you draw the line? While Zaha Hadid's treatment by BBC Radio 4's Today program brought sympathy from fellow architects, the interview has prompted a discussion of architects' moral responsibility...kick-started a media-wide debate about the morals of architecture and the idea that buildings are designed in an 'ethical void'.](#) By Richard Waite and Merlin Fulcher - The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Stirling Prize ceremony targeted by social housing activists: Architects for Social Housing object to shortlisting of Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners' luxury Neo Bankside flats...also planning a protest at Mipim London...looking for an architect to design a temporary pavilion...](#) By Elizabeth Hopkirk - BD/Building Design (UK)

[Jean Nouvel's leaning towers for Paris approved: ...has won planning for a pair of apparently leaning towers on Paris's Left Bank. The Tours Duo is one of the first tall building projects to win its construction permit since the city dropped its ban on tall buildings.](#) [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

[New architects hired to transform Edinburgh's iconic Calton Hill: Collective Architecture...to help transform the derelict 18th century observatory...into a modern art gallery...Glasgow-based firm selected after the project's original designer closed its doors earlier this year..."Malcolm Fraser Architects did some brilliant design work and we're taking those plans forward..."](#) [images] - STV News (Scotland)

[Zaha Hadid Debuts in Moscow With Dominion Tower Office Center: ...a stunning avant-garde office complex...one of most expensive properties per square meter in the capital...inspired by Russian avant-garde styles from the 1920s...seen by many as a site that would attract tourists and lovers of contemporary architecture. However, the issue of public access for those who want to enjoy the interior appears to be unresolved.](#) - The Moscow Times (Russia)

[Zaha Hadid's New Moscow Office Building Is a Dizzying Piece of Architectural Eye Candy: The centerpiece of the photogenic interior is a dizzying, black-and-white central atrium...easy to imagine the interior as the set of a futuristic office dramedy...](#) By Kristin Hohenadel [images] - Slate

A Glimpse into Zaha Hadid's Luxe Residential Project in New York: ...520 West 28th Street, a curvaceous luxury mid-rise tower that will join the throng of bombastic buildings abutting Manhattan's High Line...Patrik Schumacher anticipates there will be "super-cool people" in the building. Super-wealthy may be more accurate. - Architectural Record

Out of sight and out of mind: Let's have an elderly memorial clear-out: It's time to find a retirement home for some of London's less-loved memorials: ...remembrance is in danger of becoming a national pathology...It is not just the quantity of these structures that invites concern but their scale and their frequently bombastic or sentimental expression. By Ellis Woodman - The Architects' Journal (UK)

For DesignPhiladelphia, architects re-imagine a forgotten alleyway: At the moment, Pearl Street is a dumpster-lined alley...the humble space will become host to Pearl Street Passage, the most ambitious project ever for DesignPhiladelphia...now in its 11th year...will be transformed into a linear art gallery, performance space, and outdoor hub for the festival..."Shift." Oct. 8-16 - Groundswell Design Group; Francis Cauffman; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson [images] - Philadelphia Inquirer

Winner of "National Parks Now" Competition: Teams Launch Pilot Projects..."Six Great Ideas" for Connecting Parks to New Audiences Manuel Miranda/MMP/Frances Medina/Mariana Mogilevich/Valeria Mogilevich/June Williamson/Willy Wong; Wayward/Project Projects [images] - Van Alen Institute / U.S. National Park Service

2015 Burnham Prize: Currencies of Architecture: Three entries were awarded...challenged participants to develop a single image that represents a strong point of view that explores the question: What is the State of the Art of Architecture today? -- Kyle Reynolds/Jeff Mikolajewski; Doghua Chen; Jennifer Park/Faiza Uppal [images] - Chicago Architectural Club

Rural Urban Framework Wins 2015 Curry Stone Design Prize: Addressing China's unprecedented rural-to-urban migration, RUF has (so far) helped 18 depopulating villages... [images] - ArchDaily

Frank Gehry's Urban Renewal: Throughout "Frank Gehry" at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the repeated and insistent message is that his work "distinguished him as an urbanist," as if trying so hard to convince us that it's true. The curator doth protest too much. By Julie D. Taylor, Hon. AIA/LA [images] - ArchNewsNow.com



Gehry Partners, LLP: A Gehry building begins with a sketch..."As soon as I understand the scale of the building and the relationship to the site and the relationship to the client, as it becomes more and more clear to me, I start doing sketches." By Kirsten Kiser

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